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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/02/06

SPONSOR Campos LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Luna College Dental Hygienist Program SB 691

ANALYST Williams

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to new initiative of \$400.0 thousand in LFC budget recommendation for dental hygiene HED notes executive supports \$1 million for start-up costs for dental hygiene programs across the state

Also SB 180 and SB 264

Also SB 83 and HB 172

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Department of Health (DOH)

Health Policy Commission (HPC)

New Mexico Dental Association (NMDA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 691 appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to the Higher Education Department for start up funding for a dental hygiene program at Luna Community College.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2009 shall revert to the general fund.

In its budget request to the HED, Luna Community College did not submit requests for expansions or for new initiatives for dental hygiene.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HED notes anticipated start-up costs for a dental hygienist program at Luna Community College are \$100,000 for program and \$20,000 for capital outlay.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The bill does not specifically place an emphasis on linking the initiative to the state's strategic plans for health, economic development or higher education and does not address performance accountability components, such as outcomes-oriented performance measures.

However, per the New Mexico Dental Association, "DOH has indicated these bills are consistent with the DOH strategic plan Program Area 9, strategic direction: Objective 3: "increase the health workforce supply in collaboration with other entities in New Mexico".

These programs will educate hygienists for high paying jobs throughout the State, help attract dentists to rural areas, and help improve oral health and prevention in schools with the Governor's School Based Health Program, nursing homes, and communities --- therefore improving the health and economic development of the State."

HED includes the suggestion of a performance measure related to program graduates finding employment in New Mexico. DOH notes approximately 25% of New Mexico adults age 65 or older have lost all their natural teeth, compared to the national target recommended by *Healthy People 2010* to have no more than 20 percent of this group having lost their natural teeth.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

HED notes in New Mexico, nearly 1/3 of the 1,074 licensed dentists have out-of-state addresses or are over age 65. Further, New Mexico ranks 49th among states in the number of dentists per 1,000 people. HED notes the potential for "over saturation of the market" in rural areas.

HPC estimates New Mexico needs 228 new hygienists per year to meet the national guidelines of 1 hygienist to 2000 population.

Also, New Mexico counties designated as oral health professional shortage areas: 30 of 33 counties.

HPC notes most of the hygienist positions in southern and southeastern New Mexico are being taken by graduates of El Paso Community College and Amarillo Community College because the pay is higher in New Mexico due to the shortage. These hygienists are not typically anesthesia certified, so they cannot be fully utilized in New Mexico.

Existing dental hygienist programs are:

- University of New Mexico, which accepts 24 students per year, and
- San Juan Community College, which accepts 12 students per year.

Existing dental assistance programs are at:

- Eastern New Mexico University, Roswell
- University of New Mexico, Gallup
- Albuquerque TVI (received preliminary provisional approval)
- Santa Fe Community College (received preliminary provisional approval)

New Mexico statute required a licensed dental hygienist practice under the supervision of a licensed dentist.

ALTERNATIVES

Laws of 1993, Chapter 389 (Senate Bill 370) established the higher education program development enhancement fund to address critical state issues, including work force and professional training, instructional program enhancements and development of mission-specific instructional programs. This program development enhancement fund is intended to provide a planning and prioritization framework as well as start-up funding for type of initiative.

Higher education institutions receive indirect cost revenues from federal contracts and grants. Further, this money is unrestricted in the sense that the governing board of the institution has the flexibility to choose which projects are supported with these funds. One of the purposes of retaining these funds is to provide seed money and matching funds for projects such as those proposed in this bill.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. How many dental hygienists would enter the New Mexico labor market per year as a result of this funding proposal?
2. What performance accountability would be required?

AW/nt